



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois, Indiana,
Michigan, Minnesota,
Ohio, Wisconsin

Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 07-OPAXXX

KALAMAZOO RIVER UPDATE: NEW PLAN FOR 2007 DREDGE DISPOSAL ANNOUNCED

CHICAGO (April 25, 2007)— U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today announced an agreement with two companies that PCB-contaminated sediment removed this year from an area around the Plainwell Impoundment will not be sent to the Allied Paper site in Kalamazoo, Mich.

"EPA has clearly heard the concerns of Kalamazoo officials and residents," said Regional Administrator Mary Gade. "This agreement allows more time to better address local concerns about disposal without further delaying cleanup work at the Plainwell Impoundment."

No determination has been made regarding a disposal site or sites for material excavated during 2008. EPA will solicit public input on disposal options considered.

"COMMENT HERE," said MDEQ Director Steven E. Chester.

The 2007 cleanup work—which was halted on April 13 to allow for additional community input—will resume on DATE [?]. EPA expects that about one-third of the sediment will be removed during 2007. Under the new plan, material excavated from the river during 2007 will be segmented based on the level of PCB contamination and sent to permitted commercial landfills.

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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KALAMAZOO RIVER UPDATE: NEW PLAN FOR 2007 DREDGE DISPOSAL ANNOUNCED
- Page 2

The alternative plan for 2007 was proposed by Georgia-Pacific and Millennium Holdings, which had previously agreed to perform the \$21 million cleanup under EPA oversight. The government agencies and companies agreed to the general approach this week. A variety of technical, logistical and financial details will be addressed over the next few weeks.

Under a cleanup plan announced February 28, an estimated 132,000 cubic yards of sediment was to be sent to Allied Paper's existing Kalamazoo Landfill during the 2007 – 2008 construction seasons. Though the disposal plan for 2007 has been revised, both EPA and MDEQ firmly believe the original work plan presented in February is fully protective of human health and the environment and would have presented no negative impacts to the Kalamazoo community, environment or economy.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 07-OPA068

KALAMAZOO RIVER UPDATE: NEW PLAN FOR 2007 DREDGE DISPOSAL ANNOUNCED

CHICAGO (April 25, 2007)— U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today announced a tentative agreement with two companies that PCB-contaminated sediment removed this year from an area around the Plainwell Impoundment will not be sent to the Allied Paper disposal area in Kalamazoo, Mich.

"EPA has clearly heard the concerns of Kalamazoo officials and residents," said Regional Administrator Mary Gade. "This agreement allows more time to better address local concerns about disposal without further delaying the time-critical cleanup work at the Plainwell Impoundment."

No determination has been made regarding a disposal site or sites for material excavated during 2008. EPA will solicit public input on all disposal options considered.

"The agreement ensures this important cleanup project will move forward while addressing the concerns that we have heard," said Steven E. Chester, director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. "I look forward to keeping an

open dialogue with the community as we continue our efforts to restore the Kalamazoo River.”

The 2007 cleanup work — which was halted on April 13 to allow for additional community input — will resume on May 2. EPA expects that about one-third of the sediment will be removed during 2007. Under the new plan, material excavated from the river during 2007 will be sent to permitted commercial landfills.

The alternative plan for 2007 was proposed by Georgia-Pacific and Millennium Holdings. The companies agreed to perform the \$21-25 million cleanup under EPA and Michigan DEQ oversight earlier this year. The government agencies and companies agreed to the new disposal approach this week. A variety of technical, logistical and financial details will be addressed over the next few weeks.

Under a cleanup plan announced February 28, an estimated 132,000 cubic yards of sediment was to be sent to Allied Paper’s existing disposal area during the 2007-2008 construction seasons. Though the disposal plan for 2007 has been revised, both EPA and Michigan DEQ firmly believe the original work plan presented in February is fully protective of human health and the environment and would have presented no negative impacts to the Kalamazoo community, environment or economy.

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